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Town Council

of the

Borough of Pembroke

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1973.

B O R O U G H O F P E M B R O K E.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1973.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Pembroke

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1973. It is an abbreviated report which has been compiled from available records. The corrected statistics are not received until April or May, but it was necessary, in view of re-organisation, to present this report to the Council before 1st April, 1974.

HOUSING.

No significant change has occurred in the information provided in my report for 1972. During the year, the Points Scheme for the allocation of council dwellings continued to operate in a satisfactory manner, providing a fair system for all applicants on the waiting list. Once again, a considerable number of persons received priority for housing on medical grounds. No council dwellings were built during the year and the total number of council properties of all types is 1,653, but, nevertheless, the waiting list was substantially increased by the end of 1973.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases showed an increase over the figures for the previous year. There was a notable rise in the number of cases of measles, which increased from 26 cases in 1972 to 176 cases in 1973. This is a disappointing feature, in view of the fact that an efficient vaccine is available for the prevention of this disease. A survey among 100 children affected in the Borough showed that, in fact, only 3 children had received the vaccine. Thirteen cases of infective jaundice occurred in the Borough during the year.

In common with the rest of the County, a certain number of mild cases of non-specific enteritis occurred in the summer and autumn; this illness is not spread by food or water and is common to all holiday areas. At the end of the year a limited outbreak of influenza occurred which, although not extensive, nevertheless accounted for the deaths of four elderly persons.

As in previous years, it was decided by the Council that I should vaccinate against influenza, all those members of the staff who requested it and this was carried out at the end of October.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The quality of the water supply in the Borough is generally excellent. Pembrokeshire Water Board took 70 water samples and submitted them to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and I am pleased to report that all were reported to be satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLIES.

There is no significant change in the information supplied in my 1972 report - most producer/retailers of milk are in the Brucellosis Incentive Scheme and, in addition, most of the milk sold in the Borough is pasteurised.

SEWERAGE.

A Public Enquiry was held in Pembroke during October, into the South Pembrokeshire Joint Regional Sewerage Scheme, which includes areas outside the Borough. The decision of the Secretary of State is awaited.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council and its Officers for their courtesy and co-operation during the five years I have had the privilege of serving as your Medical Officer of Health.

Yours obediently,

MICHAEL LAWLOR.

M.B., B.Ch., D.C.H., D.P.H.,

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VITAL STATISTICS.

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 1973 14,570

	Pem.Boro' 1973	Pem.Boro' 1972
Live Births	274	262
Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop)	18.8	18.3
Still Births	6	2
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	21	8
Total Live & Still Births	280	264
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1yr)	4	6
Deaths	162	169
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	11.1	11.8

INFANT DEATHS.

4 male infants under 1 year of age died during the year; 3 died in hospital and 1 at home. Details are as follows:

1. 35minutes old. Died of Asphyxia at birth.
2. 2 days old. " " Congenital heart disease.
3. 1 month old. " " Emphysema and broncho-pneumonia.
4. 4 months old. " " Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit.

DEATHS (General).

Once again, heart disease accounted for the greatest number of deaths - 66; 29 of the total 162 deaths were due to malignant disease, 2 of these were due to cancer of the lung.

Approximately 26% of the deaths occurred in persons aged between 70 and 80 years of age and approximately 27% in person aged over 80 years.

Causes of death: Total 162.	84 M.	78 F.
Diseases of heart and circulatory system:	40	26
Diseases of brain and nervous system:	12	13
Cancer of lung:	2	-
Cancer (all other forms):	12	15
Diseases of respiratory system:	6	11
Diseases of digestive system:	4	2
Diseases of kidneys and urinary system:	-	1
Infant deaths:	4	-
Accidental deaths:	1	3
Influenzal deaths:	1	3
Other ill-defined symptoms:	1	1
Drowning:	1	-
Diabetes:	-	1
Senility:	-	2

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified to me from the Borough during 1973:-

176 Measles
17 Scarlet Fever
2 Food Poisoning
13 Infective Jaundice
1 Respiratory Tuberculosis
2 Tuberculosis (other forms).

TUBERCULOSIS.

I am pleased to report once again, that there were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year; 3 new cases of the disease were notified.

Prevention of Tuberculosis: B.C.G.vaccination: The annual visit to the Secondary School in the Borough took place during the autumn term when a total of 222 pupils (13 year-olds and over) were skin tested and 169 of these received the vaccination. The Chest Physician continues to see contacts at the regular Chest Clinics at South Pembrokeshire Hospital, Pembroke Dock and at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, 1946.

Local Health Services: Infant Welfare Clinics at Pembroke and Pembroke Dock continued as in the previous year, where immunisations and vaccinations were carried out; school sessions were also held during the spring and summer terms.

The health visitors and district nurses continued their group practice attachment, under the supervision of the Director of Nursing Services, during the year.

Details below relate to all children under 16 years of age who received immunisations and vaccinations in the County, during the year :-

Diphtheria immunisations:	1,625
Whooping cough immunisations:	1,582
Tetanus immunisations:	1,800
Polio. vaccinations:	1,649
Measles vaccinations:	785
Rubella vaccinations:	808
B.C.G.vaccinations:	913
Booster diphtheria doses:	1,173
Booster whooping cough doses:	111
Booster tetanus doses:	1,511
Booster polio. doses:	1,165

Ambulance Service.

The two ambulances based at Pembroke Dock, working under the control of the County Ambulance Officer, Haverfordwest, continued their excellent service in the south of the County during the year. I regret that figures of patients transported are not yet available.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951.

Section 47: Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was necessary for me to seek Emergency Orders under the above Section, to remove two elderly ladies from their homes to Residential Welfare Homes, during 1973.